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PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 16 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 16 November 1995, addressed to you by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ravân FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 16 November 1995 from the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the Secretary-General

You are no doubt aware, through the Special Mission to Afghanistan, of the politico-military situation in my country.

For more than a year, a new phenomenon, the so-called Taliban, has emerged as a new armed group on the Afghan scene. The continuous strengthening and further mobilization of this armed group by outside quarters, their linkage to foreign circles, their ambiguous ideology and agenda, which are clearly violating every norm and principle of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, have caused serious concern among the countries of the region as far as their far-reaching security and geo-political implications.

It is on the basis of the provision of paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations that the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan finds it essential to draw your attention to the above situation.

The United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, in compliance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in operative paragraph 8 of its resolution 49/140 of 20 December 1994, has to present a detailed report on the situation in Afghanistan for consideration by the current session of the General Assembly.

It is an undeniable fact that the newly emerged military group of the so-called Taliban, as explained above, seems to possess the potential and capability of impeding the implementation of any peace process in the country (see S/1995/767).

The Islamic State of Afghanistan calls upon the head of the United Nations Special Mission to spell out in his report and presentation to the General Assembly of its current session, or as an annex to his report, his assessment on the following points, without which no thorough and constructive consideration and analysis of the Afghan situation can be anticipated (see S/1995/795):

1. Who are the Taliban?

   (a) How can they be recognized as a genuine Afghan movement and to what extent are they attached and connected to foreign quarters?

   (b) How and where are they recruited?

   (c) How are they armed and by whom?

   (d) How and where are they trained?

   (e) How are their movement and military actions financed?

   (f) Who is masterminding and instructing their military operations?

2. As to the Taliban's ideology and goals:

(a) What are their views on democracy?

(b) What are their views on human rights, the rights of women and, especially, the rights of women to education and work?

3. Concerning the Taliban and the peace process, what are their views on:

(a) A general cease-fire in the country?

(b) Inter-Afghan dialogue?

(c) Subsequent free elections in the country or the convening of a Grand Assembly (Loya Jirga)?

(d) A broad-based Government to be constituted in an administratively united country free from foreign intervention?

4. What is the Taliban's appreciation of the United Nations, its Special Mission to Afghanistan and its active participation in the peace process?

Responding to the above-mentioned questions is particularly pertinent and timely since the Taliban, on the basis of the following, constitute an element of danger to the peace and stability of the region.

(a) In the statements before the current session of the General Assembly, many heads of delegations of Member States, especially of the region, explicitly or implicitly expressed their concern about the interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. It is well known that this interference is characterized by the creation and mobilization of the Taliban by some Pakistani official circles.

(b) With respect to a negotiated settlement and the idea of participating in a peaceful political process, this newly emerged band has never acknowledged or supported the peacemaking efforts of the United Nations. Their many declarations favouring a military solution to the Afghan problem are well known. This group possesses the capability of blocking any political process or causing sustained delay to it.

(c) The Taliban claimed at the outset that their goal is to clear roads and remove checkpoints, as well as to put an end to indiscriminate rocket attacks on the civilian population; now they are themselves subjecting the capital and its innocent inhabitants to food and fuel blockades. On numerous occasions, they have indiscriminately rocketed Kabul City (see A/50/748-S/1995/950). On 10 November 1995, they launched 170 rockets, killing 37 and wounding 52 Kabul civilians, mainly women and children.

(d) Ideologically, the manner and practice of this fanatic and obscurantist band, with an erroneous interpretation of the precepts of the holy religion of Islam in the territories under their control, have been totally

inconsistent with the spirit of Islam and against all accepted principles of human rights. Closure of girls' schools and preventing them to attend colleges, banning of females to work or even to teach in the primary schools, barring women from leaving the house, severing of arms and legs of those convicted of theft, with no consideration to relevant religious tenets, prohibiting sports, forbidding the use of television, closing theatres and cinemas and so on, all comprise the obscurantism of this band and bring about a serious threat to the human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country. The behaviour and ideology of this band negates the very purpose of every paragraph of General Assembly resolution 49/207 of 23 December 1994 on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan.

It is our earnest expectation that you will keep the world community informed of the existing chaotic situation in the areas under Taliban control and the threat posed by them to regional peace and stability.

Mindful of our national responsibilities, our loyalty to the Charter of the United Nations, our respect for the provisions of international instruments pertaining to the protection of human rights and as part of preventive diplomacy, we convey to the United Nations the above concerns as an early warning.

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFOORZAI
Vice-Minister for
Foreign Affairs